India dated the 31st March, 1990; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) Whether similar greening of more hills and ranges, especially in Rajasthan, is also planned; if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) whether the existing forests would be partially protected and saved by Government ensuring that the flaring of gas which is more than 50 per cent of what is producer, is fully stopped and those responsible for this continued flaring for the last 10—15 years are brought to book at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Department of Power as agreed, in principle, to contribute upto Rs. 300 crores during the Eighth Five Year Plan for national ecological upgrading of the Himalayas, particularly for the river basins in which hydro-electric power projects are coming up. However, the Himalayas extend right across the country from Jammu & Kashmir in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The amount of Rs. 300 crores is not sufficient for greening the whole of the Himalayas.

(b) Other ecologically fragile hills and ranges like the Aravallis and Western Ghats are proposed to be covered under the wasteland development programme during the Eighth Plan period, subject to the availability of funds. The details of Eighth Five Year Plan have not been finalised.

(c) Greater availability of natural gas would provide an alternative fuel and to that extent reduce the pressure on the forests. The Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals has drawn up a plan to deal with flaring of gas and other related aspects.

India's capability to acquire radio sound data for Meteorological purposes

2123. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has the capability to acquire radio sound data for meteorological purposes ; if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this data is shared with the World Meteorological Organisation and some other countries ;

(c) whether reliability of our data has been questioned by some of the world experts ; if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard ; and

(d) what is the cost of collection of this data by India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON) : (a) Yes, Sir. The India Meteorological Department manufactures its own radiosondes and maintains a network of 35 radiosonde observation stations spread all over India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Any geophysical or meteorological observation, such as the radiosonde data, has intrinsic uncertainty and hence often is a matter of subjective assessment even among experts. The opinion of individual experts also depends on the precise requirement of their own research work. Data quality, both national and international, are therefore kept under close scrutiny and review. The India Meteorological Department has subjected its radiosonde to the international intercomparison held in USA in 1985 and the Indian radiosonde perfor-

med well. Further improvements have been initiated such as real time computation at field stations using Personal Computer (PC) type equipment.

(d) One radiosonde observation costs about Rs. 1500. As two observations each are taken at 35 stations (morning and evening), the total cost of getting these data comes to about Rs. 4 crore per year.

Review of policy regarding setting up of nuclear power plants in the country

2124. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review its policy regarding the setting up of nuclear power plants in the country in light of the Chernobyl disaster in USSR, as appeared in the Times International of 9th April 1990 ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a high powered monitoring Committee, having representations from non-Government organisations to review the establishment of nuclear power establishments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON) : (a) India is not building Chernobyl type of reactors. The safety features of the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors being built in India are quite different from those of the Chernobyl graphite moderated system. Indian reactors are among the safest in the world in terms of their design characteristics.

(b) The safety clearance for power reactors is the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board which has non-governmental members on the Board. This Board is fully competent and continues to monitor the operation of nuclear power stations in the country.

गंगा नदी का निरंतर प्रदूषण

2125. श्रीमती मनोरमा पाण्डेय : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गंगा जल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण के बनने के पांच वर्ष बीतने पर भी गंगा नदी में पहले की भांति नगर पालिकाओं, कारखानों तथा मिलों से गंदा पानी तथा कूड़ा इत्यादि नियमित रूप से प्रवाहित होते रहने के कारण नदी के जल में प्रदूषण की कमी नहीं आई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस प्रदूषण के शीघ्र नियंत्रण हेतु नगरपालिकाओं, कारखानों और मिलों को तत्काल कड़ा निर्देश जारी करने का विचार रखती है जिससे किसी भी प्रकार का गन्दा पानी, कूड़ा कचरा आदि नदियों में न बहायें ; और

(ग) गंगा नदी के जल के कब तक पूर्णरूपेण प्रदूषण रहित हो जाने की संभावना है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती [illegible]) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) गंगा के जल को पूरी तरह से तब तक प्रदूषण-मुक्त नहीं किया जा सकता जब तक कि, इस नदी और इसकी सहायक नदियों के किनारों की बस्तियों से निकलने वाला निःस्राव (आउट फ्लो) और बहिःस्राव, कृषि में प्रयोग किये जाने वाले सभी पीड़कनाशी और कीटनाशी, जो इस नदी